

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A liver function protecting or improving agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, ~~an extract of a residue~~ a filtrate obtained by extracting ~~with alcohol or water containing alcohol~~ an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, ~~in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.~~

Claims 7-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A food or drink which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient, a filtrate~~ an extract of a residue obtained by extracting ~~with alcohol or water containing alcohol~~ an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, ~~in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.~~

Claims 17-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A feed which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient, a filtrate~~ an extract of a residue ~~which is~~ obtained by extracting ~~with alcohol or water containing alcohol~~ an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting

a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, ~~in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.~~

Claims 25-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) An additive for food or drink for protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises ~~an isolated Hydrangea Dulcis Folium, or an extract of the plant, as an active ingredient, a filtrate obtained by extracting an extract residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of Hydrangea Dulcis Folium with an aqueous medium, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.~~

31. (Currently Amended) An additive for food or drink having liver function protecting or improving activity, which comprises, as an active ingredient, a filtrate ~~an extract of a residue~~ obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.

Claims 32-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises administering, to a human in need thereof, ~~an isolated *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino or *Hydrangea Dulcis* Folium, or an extract of at least one of the plants~~ an active ingredient comprising a filtrate obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino or *Hydrangea Dulcis* Folium with an aqueous medium, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.

38. (Currently Amended) A feed additive having liver function protecting or improving activity, which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient, a filtrate an extract of a residue obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.~~

Claims 39-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, in an animal, which comprises ~~administering~~ administering, to an animal in need thereof, an effective amount of an active ingredient comprising a filtrate obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said

extract residue is obtained by extracting a ~~isolated~~ plant of the family *Saxifragaceae*, or an extract of the plant with an aqueous medium, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the animal is a human.

Claims 45-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A food, drink or feed for protecting liver function from damages from an excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises ~~an isolated Hydrangea Dulcis Folium, or an extract of the plant~~ an active ingredient comprising a filtrate obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting Hydrangea Dulcis Folium with an aqueous medium, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.

50. (Currently Amended) A food, drink or feed for protection or improvement of liver function which comprises ~~an extract of a residue~~ an active ingredient comprising a filtrate obtained by extracting with alcohol or water containing alcohol an extract residue, wherein said extract residue is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with an aqueous medium, in which the extract is obtained by extracting the residue with alcohol or water containing alcohol, and filtering the resulting extract to remove the filtrate.

Claim 51 (Cancelled).

52. (New) The agent according to claim 6, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

53. (New) The food or drink according to claim 16, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

54. (New) The feed according to claim 24, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

55. (New) The additive according to either of claims 30 or 31, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

56. (New) The method according to any of claims 37, 43 or 44, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

57. (New) The feed additive according to claim 38, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.

58. (New) The food, drink or feed according to either of claims 49 or 50, wherein the active ingredient is an extract of the filtrate.